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SOURCE Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR, No 7, 1949.

APPROVAL OF THE 1949 SCIENTIFIC WORK PLAN
OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USSR

According to the report of Academician A. V. Topchiyev, first scientific secretary of the Presidium, the General Assembly approved the 1949 plan for the scientific work of the Academy of Sciences. Academician Topchiyev announced that the plan was prepared after consideration of the most important problems confronting our government, and the international situation at the beginning of the current year.

An important feature of the 1949 plan is its design for solving leading national economic problems and concentrating the scientific effort of several departments on the problems of great scientific and economic value. These problems include the theory of building materials, which the efforts of institutes in the Departments of Physicomathematical, Chemical, and Geologogeographical Sciences will be concentrated; and the problems of natural and synthetic albumin, vitamins and antibiotics upon which the institutes of Departments of Biological, Physicomathematical, and Chemical Sciences will work.

Problems under the heading, "Petroleum and Its Derivatives," are being worked on by units of the Departments of Technical, Geologogeographical, and Chemical Sciences in close collaboration with the Academies of Sciences of Azerbaydzhan and Georgia, and affiliates and bases of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

Collaboration with Academies of Sciences of union-republics is provided for in many fields. For example, problems of irrigation in the basins of the Amu Dar'ya, Syr Dar'ya, Kura, and Araks will be studied jointly by the Academies of Sciences of Uzbek, Kazakh, Armeniya, Georgia, and Azerbaydzhan.

For the first time there is planned collaboration of units of the social sciences departments with institutes working on problems of natural science. An example of such collaboration, specified by the 1949 plan, is the preparation of a monograph, "History of Domestic Cultivation," which will be carried out under the direction of Academicians B. D. Grekov

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and T. D. Lyssenko, by the Department of History and Philosophy and the Department of Biological Sciences.

A significant part of the problems specified in the plan must be completed or near completion in 1949. Such problems include a group connected with polymers and plastics, the technology of organic synthesis, scientific bases of animal husbandry, development of the fish and food industries, development of the principles of automatization and mechanization of industrial transportation processes, mining, and other branches of the national economy.

Academician Topchiyev reported that in January of the current year S. I. Vavilov, president of the Academy of Sciences, presented an outline of the academy's 1949 plan at the conference of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. According to the president's report, the Council of Ministers issued the decree which approved in principle the scientific research plan of the Academy of Sciences for 1949. Furthermore, the Council of Ministers USSR commissioned the Presidium of the Academy to confirm the 1949 plan of scientific research, taking into account the interchange of opinions which took place at the conference of the Bureau of the Council of Ministers USSR on 27 January 1949, and also the comments and recommendations introduced by Gosplan and Gostekhnika.

These critical recommendations reveal the faults which the Academy of Sciences still has in respect to planning its activities. The recommendations of Gosplan and Gostekhnika, as well as the comments expressed at the conference of the Bureau of the Council of Ministers USSR, were communicated by the Presidium to the appropriate institutes and affiliated departments.

On 7 April 1949, at a conference of the Presidium, the plan was approved in final form. The resolution of this conference was transmitted to the institutes and departments of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

This plan in final form covers 296 extensive scientific problems and calls for the organization of 125 expeditions.

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